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LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF GUINEA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

In my capacity as Chairman of the African Group for this month, I have the honour to transmit a document on the situation in Somalia for circulation as a Security Council document.

(Signed) Zaïnoul Abidine SANOUSSI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Statement of 18 December 1991 by the Secretary-General of the Organization of African Unity concerning the situation in Somalia

[Original: English]

I continue to be gravely concerned at the continuing fratricidal fighting in Somalia. The senseless fighting, which shows no sign of abatement, serves no purpose beyond the perpetration of more human suffering and deaths. The callous disregard to the sanctity of human life, which continues to graphically manifest itself in the fighting, has further compounded the conflict by fanning the tensions and divisions among the Somali people and undermined the prospects for a peaceful settlement. In this respect, every additional day of fighting only leads to more indiscrimate killing of innocent men, women and children. It complicates further the problem, aggravates division with its attendant human suffering and sows seeds of deeper confusion. No differences whatsoever, much less political differences can justify the random and wanton killings we are now witnessing in Mogadishu.

The most urgent task at hand is to bring to a speedy end the mayhem and carnage now raging in Mogadishu. In this regard, both parties involved in this fighting have particular responsibility to ensure that there is an immediate cease-fire and normalcy is restored to the city and thus paving the way to dialogue and a peaceful resolution to the conflict. I would like to make a solemn appeal to President Mahdi of The Interim Government and General Aedeed to exercise leadership and put an end to violence and self-destruction which is being visited on the Somali people.

I also wish to appeal to the international community, the African Governments and especially the leaders of the countries of the region to use their influence and leverage to encourage the parties to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue. I would equally wish to appeal, once more, to the international community at large to respond to the very urgent humanitarian needs of the victims of the conflict in all parts of Somalia by providing assistance especially of food and medicine.

I want to firmly reiterate the disposition of the OAU to do all possible to facilitate a speedy end to the fighting and to bring about a lasting settlement of the conflict in Somalia. Accordingly, I remain ready to facilitate a meeting between all the parties involved and with whom I have been in contact, in the course of the last months, with a view to elaborating a framework for constructive dialogue.